

## For Immediate Release

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### **Topeka Resident Presented with KDADS Volunteer of the Month Award**

TOPEKA – On a special night when Midland Care in Topeka brought together it's almost 200 volunteers to thank them for their commitment of time with a celebration of holidays prizes, food and even a few Christmas carols, one special volunteer received an unexpected but well-deserved award.

Seventeen-year volunteer Aggie Bernritter was named the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services' (KDADS) Volunteer of the Month and was presented with a certificate of appreciation, a \$20 Walgreens gift card and a \$50 check by KDADS Commissioner on Aging Craig Kaberline.

Midland Care President and CEO Karren Weichert addressed the crowd, saying, "There is no better time than the holidays to honor you all for what you do. It is a time for commemorating people who are important in our lives and you all are important to this organization and the thousands of patients we come in contact with every year, and not just those patients, but their families. We have so many incredible volunteers."

"It was a true honor to recognize Aggie for her years and many hours of dedication to Midland Care. Volunteers play such a big role in the lives of our aging population and the dedication she has shown over the past 17 years is commendable and very important to our community," said Kaberline.

Aggie and her husband Herman began as part-time volunteers at Midland Care in 1995 after he saw an ad in the newspaper. He worked as a groundkeeper and maintenance worker and she in the daycare before moving into the office. Since her husband passed away in 2000, Aggie has been working five days a week, eight hours a day in the medical records department.

"My husband showed me the ad and said he was going to volunteer, so I decided if he was going to volunteer I was going to do it with him and I've been here ever since," Aggie said. "I have enjoyed the years I've been here, it's been my pleasure."

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Aggie was nominated by Midland Care Director of Volunteers Suz McIver who says Aggie has put in over 1,000 hours per year since 1995 and in 2012 put in more than 1,800 hours. McIver describes Aggie as “a rock star to all of us at Midland Care.”

“She has been here every day working full-time in medical records since her husband passed away; she’s always available to us. Aggie is the one that we’ve relied on to keep all that straight for us. She’s incredible,” Weichert said

KanCare Managed Care Organizations Amerigroup, Sunflower State Health Plan and United Healthcare are proud sponsors of the Volunteer of the Month program. For more information on the Volunteer of the Month program or to nominate a Volunteer of the Month, visit [www.kdads.ks.gov](http://www.kdads.ks.gov).

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*The Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services mission is to foster an environment that promotes security, dignity and independence for all Kansans.*